

CYPRIPEDIUM REGINAE REDISCOVERED IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Cypripedium reginae Walt., the Showy Lady Slipper, reported from only one station in New Hampshire, was last collected there in 1891. The site under consideration, the Bottomless Pit in Hanover (Grafton County) near the Lebanon town line, has changed from an open water bog earlier in this century (J. Poole, pers. comm.) to a *Picea mariana* shrub community at the present time. Since conditions in the bog have changed to the extent that it no longer supports an orchid population, *Cypripedium reginae* was considered "possibly extinct" in the state (Storks & Crow, 1978).

During the course of field work for my Orchid Flora of New Hampshire project this summer, I was directed by Frederic L. Steele to Scott Fitzpatrick, a naturalist working at Lost River Reservation in Woodstock, N.H. Mr. Fitzpatrick remembered seeing the Showy Lady Slipper in Lyme, N.H. and furnished directions to the site. On June 20, 1979, I visited the site and found a population of over 200 plants in full flower. The station is a rather ordinary swampy area with *Osmunda cinnamomea*, *Onoclea sensibilis*, and *Saxifraga pennsylvanica* growing in abundance.

On that same date I also visited the town of Lisbon, and was shown a large clump of *Cypripedium reginae* growing in a garden. The plants were said to have been transplanted from a swamp in the same town. The actual site of the swamp is a highly guarded secret, and it wasn't until July 6, 1979 that I received permission to be escorted to the site, a large *Thuja* swamp located on private property. Although the majority of the plants had finished flowering, the remaining display was still quite impressive. *Habenaria hyperborea*, *Monesis uniflora*, and *Pyrola secunda* were also quite abundant under the *Thuja*.

Despite the fact that the owner's wife has received a large annual bouquet of "swamp orchids" for the past 20 years, the station should be quite safe from exploitation under the present ownership.

Voucher specimens were taken from both sites and are deposited in the Hodgdon Herbarium at the University of New Hampshire (NHA). I am indebted to Fred Steele who directed me to both of the contacts. Should anyone have knowledge of any other locations for

rare New Hampshire orchids, I would greatly appreciate the information. The confidentiality of specific sites is assured. Perhaps other "extinct" orchids are waiting to be rediscovered in New Hampshire.

LITERATURE CITED

- STORKS, I. M. & G. E. CROW. 1978. Rare and Endangered Vascular Plant Species in New Hampshire. New England Botanical Club, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (Newton Corner, Mass.)

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